

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 01994 271549Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-02 TRSE-00 /071 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4969

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 1994

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JM

SUBJECT: SEAGA WINS A FEW

REFERENCE: 76 KINGSTON 5555

1. IN THE COURSE OF HIS APRIL 22 ADDRESS, PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL MANLEY MADE SEVERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS WHICH REPRESENTED MAJOR CONCESSIONS TO OPPOSITION LEADER EDDIE SEAGA. IN ADDITION TO ANNOUNCING (A) THAT THE STATE OF EMERGENCY WOULD END SOON AND (B) THAT HE (MANLEY) HAD WRITTEN LETTERS TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS DEFENDING THE JAMAICAN HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD (SEE REFTEL), THE PRIME MINISTER STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT PLANS TO CORRECT TWO OTHER ILLS AGAINST WHICH THE JAMAICA LABOUR PARTY (JLP) HEAD HAS INVEIGHED.

2. THE FIRST IS THE ABSENCE OF AN AUTONOMOUS ELECTION COMMISSION. MANLEY REMINDED LISTENERS THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED A FUNDAMENTAL REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION. HE THEN SAID THAT, AS PART OF THAT REVIEW, HIS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINGST 01994 271549Z

GOVERNMENT WILL RECOMMEND THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO ESTABLISHING AN INDEPENDENT ELECTION COMMISSION UNDER ANY NEW CONSTITUTION.

3. THE SECOND IS THE DISTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT HOUSING AND JOBS ON THE BASIS OF PARTY LOYALTY, CALLED "VICTIMIZATION" BY JAMAICANS. IN HIS ADDRESS, THE

PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCED THAT INsofar AS HOUSING IS CONCERNED, A COMMISSION WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO FORMULATE CRITERIA BY WHICH APPLICANTS AT DESIGNATED CENTERS WILL BE GRANTED HOUSING ON AN EQUITABLE BASIS; THE COMMISSION WILL THEREAFTER OVERSEE THE ALLOCATION OF HOUSING. INsofar AS JOBS ARE CONCERNED, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT PLANS TO USE THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES TO RECRUIT FOR SUCH JOBS AS MAY BE OFFERED. THE EXCHANGES WILL BE MADE SUBJECT TO A "SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSPECTION" AND THE SYSTEM WILL BE DESIGNED BY A BI-PARTISAN COMMITTEE WHICH WILL ALSO ADVISE ON THE ROLE TO BE PLAYED BY MPS, PARISH COUNCILLORS AND CONSTITUENT "CUSTODIANS" (I.E., REPRESENTATIVES OF WHICHEVER PARTY IS "OUT" IN A GIVEN CONSTITUENCY) IN ALLOCATING JOBS.

4. COMMENT: THE PRIME MINISTER'S UNDERTAKINGS ARE PROSPECTIVE AND NON-SELF-EXECUTING, AND THUS SUBJECT TO CHANGE -- OR EVEN NON-FULFILLMENT. INsofar AS SEAGA IS CONCERNED, HIS VICTORY IS BITTER-SWEET. ON ONE HAND, HE CAN CLAIM AN ACCOMPLISHMENT, WHICH IS GOOD NEWS GIVEN HIS PARTY'S ELECTORAL DISASTERS AND THE INTRA-PARTY CRITICISM OF HIS LEADERSHIP. ON THE OTHER HAND, BY HIS ANNOUNCEMENTS PRIME MINISTER MANLEY HAS CUT THE GROUND RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER THE JLP LEADER'S HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 27-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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